

STATEMENT BY GENERAL DONOVAN

The Office of Strategic Services was originally established as the Office of Coordinator of Information by Executive order of the President, dated July 11, 1941.

By military order of the Commander in Chief dated June 13, 1942, the Office of Coordinator of Information (exclusive of the foreign information activities transferred to the Office of War Information by Executive order of the same date) became the Office of Strategic Services. This order also transferred the agency "to the jurisdiction of the United States Joint Chiefs of Staff." The Office of Strategic Services thereby became a part of the land and naval forces of the United States and its duties and functions have since been essentially military in character. These duties are defined in the order as follows:

(a) Collect and analyze such strategic information as may be required by the United States Joint Chiefs of Staff.

(b) Plan and operate such special services as may be directed by the United States Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Since its transfer to the jurisdiction of the United States Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Office of Strategic Services has operated under the authority of successive directives from that body. An organic directive dated December 22, 1942, as amended October 27, 1943, establishes the Office of Strategic Services as the agency of the Joint United States Chiefs of Staff charged, among other things, with (a) "The planning, development and execution of strategic services for the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the development of doctrine covering such services", and (b) "The training of personnel for strategic services."

The intelligence functions of the Office of Strategic Services include the collection, analysis, and dissemination of strategic information. Information is collected from all sources available to this country and its allies. The analysis and processing of strategic information is carried on within the several branches under the jurisdiction of the Deputy Director, Intelligence. Much of this work is done by the Research and Analysis Branch, which is organized by geographical areas conforming to the basic theaters of operation and consists of a body of distinguished scholars and experts on the history, politics, economics, geographic and social background of each of these areas. The Research and Analysis Branch is charged with preparing studies and assembling data from all available sources as required. It prepares strategic surveys of particular areas as well as maps, charts, illustrations, and visual presentation of all kinds. This work is performed for the

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Joint Chiefs of Staff, the War and Navy Departments, and other agencies concerned in the direct prosecution of the war, as well as for other branches of the Office of Strategic Services.

In addition to studies and strategic surveys, unprocessed information collected by the Office of Strategic Services is distributed, carefully classified as to source and authenticity, to the appropriate branches of the services.

Special services undertaken by the Office of Strategic Services by direction of the Joint United States Chiefs of Staff are conducted by the branches under the Deputy Director, Operations. Because of the highly secret nature of these operations it is believed inadvisable to attempt a detailed statement or description of them. It may be said, however, that these operations are conducted in the several theaters of operation under the control and direction of the theater commander.

They are in aid of military operations conducted in the theater. The basic operations of the agency are described in the directive of December 22, 1942, as amended, and are supplemented by more specific directives covering plans for particular territories and countries.

Because of the nature of its functions it is necessary to maintain bases within each theater within which the activities of the agency are conducted. The principal bases are already established and the others are in the process of establishment. It is anticipated that in almost every case the number of personnel and facilities required to operate and service these field establishments will be increased substantially during the coming fiscal year.

It is further anticipated that there will be a substantial increase in the number of personnel of the agency during the coming fiscal year.

By Executive order 9241, dated September 1, 1942, the provisions of Executive order 9001 relating to contracts were extended to the Office of Strategic Services.

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